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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Hungarian Iron Ore Requirements

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1. Yugoslav deliveries of iron ore to Hungary during 1948 were approximately 120,000 tons short of the contracted amount. No deliveries were made during November and December 1948.
2. In February 1949, a special agreement was concluded between the two countries whereby Yugoslavia promised to deliver this balance of approximately 120,000 tons, together with an additional 40,000 tons, by the end of June 1949.
3. In the present trade negotiations between the two countries, which started at the beginning of April 1949 and have not yet led to positive results, Yugoslavia is offering 100,000 tons of iron ore instead of the 400,000 tons on which Hungary had been counting. It is not known whether the additional 40,000 tons referred to in the preceding paragraph is included in this 100,000 tons.
4. To cover the gap caused in its iron ore requirements, Hungary has now finally decided to purchase the 300,000 tons of Krivoi-Rog iron ore which the Soviet Union offered during the trade negotiations between the two countries last autumn. Previously it had been decided not to take advantage of this offer as the Krivoi-Rog ore is not suitable to Hungarian blast furnaces. Only half of it can be used without "agglomeration", and Hungarian agglomeration plants are not working.

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